

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06

SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08 IO-14 PM-07

NSC-10 SAM-01 SS-20 DODE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 OIC-04

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O R 060210Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6399

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 0750

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, US

SUBJ: ENERGY: COMMUNITY PREPARATIONS FOR WASHINGTON ENERGY
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REF: EC BRUSSELS 0749

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SCHEEL AND ORTOLI BRIEFED US LATE FEBRUARY 5 ON THE RESULTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS ON THE COMMUNITY'S PREPARATION FOR THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. AS EXPECTED, THEY REPEATED WELL-KNOWN VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING THE APPEARANCE OF A CONFRONTATION WITH PRODUCERS AND OF CONSIDERATION FOR THE LDCS. SCHEEL EMPHASIZED THAT THEIR MANDATE IS A FLEXIBLE ONE WHICH WILL PERMIT THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN AND BE RESPONSIVE TO DISCUSSIONS OF ALL CONFERENCE SUBJECTS. SCHEEL FORMALLY EXPRESSED THE COMMUNITY DESIRE THAT THE CONFERENCE END ON FEBRUARY 12 AND REQUESTED POSTPONEMENT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING TO FEBRUARY 10. END SUMMARY.

2. FRG FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL, IN HIS CAPACITY AS EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT, AND COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI ASKED ME TO CALL ON THEM JOINTLY JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 5 AFTER CONCLUSION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S DECISION REGARDING THE COMMUNITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. SCHEEL, WHO DID MOST OF THE TALKING, BEGAN BY ASKING ME TO INFORM WASHINGTON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING. HE SAID THAT AFTER A LOT OF HARD WORK THE COUNCIL HAD PREPARED A MANDATE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AS A COMMUNITY AND MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE. WITH THAT IN MIND THE COUNCIL HAD CAREFULLY PREPARED THE COMMUNITY POSITION.

3. SCHEEL REFERRED TO THE SUGGESTIONS WHICH THEY HAD RECEIVED FROM US REGARDING THE AGENDA AND THE SCENARIO AND SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO RESPOND TO OUR REQUEST FOR THE VIEW OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS. SAYING HE WISHED TO BEGIN WITH A GENERAL REMARK ABOUT THE COMMUNITY VIEW OF THE CONFERENCE, SCHEEL SAID THERE ARE SOME VERY IMPORTANT POINTS IN THE AGENDA FOR THE INVITED GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER. CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE GENERAL IDEA OF THIS CONFERENCE AND THE FACT THAT OTHER GROUPS OF STATES ARE NOT PARTICIPATING-- ABOVE ALL PRODUCERS AND LDC CONSUMERS.

4. SCHEEL SAID THERE IS ALSO SOME DIFFICULTY WITH OUR IDEAS ABOUT CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP. HE SAID THE COMMUNITY WOULD RATHER
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CONSIDER THE CONFERENCE AS A CLOSED ENTITY. WHILE THE THEMES TO BE DISCUSSED COULD BE HANDLED IN VARIOUS WAYS, THE COMMUNITY FEELS THAT PRODUCERS AND LDCS MUST BE INCLUDED IN A DISCUSSION OF THE SUGGESTED AGENDA TOPICS AND THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD SHOW FLEXIBILITY ON THIS POINT. THE COMMUNITY WISHED TO CONSULT WITH OTHER CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AND WITH OTHER CONSUMER COUNTRIES. IN OTHER WORDS, SAID SCHEEL, THE COMMUNITY THINKS OF THE CONFERENCE AS A PARTICULAR EVENT AND NOT AS SOMETHING THAT

SHOULD BE INSTITUTIONALIZED AND BECOME PERMANENT.

5. REGARDING THE AGENDA, SCHEEL WAS MORE SPECIFIC AND SAID THAT OUR SUGGESTION REGARDING A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE ENERGY SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS A SUBJECT ON WHICH THE COMMUNITY CAN AGREE AND FEELS IT CAN MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION. SCHEEL SAID THE US SUGGESTION FOR FOUR MAIN AREAS OF DISCUSSION CORRESPONDS WITH THE COMMUNITY VIEW. THE COUNCIL HAD A FULL DISCUSSION OF OUR SUGGESTION FOR PLENARY MEETINGS AND WORKING GROUPS AND WISHED TO EXPRESS A CERTAIN RESERVE. WHILE NOT WISHING TO HINDER THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, THE COMMUNITY HAS SOME DIFFICULTY WITH THE IDEA OF WORKING GROUPS AND WANTS TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS.

6. SCHEEL WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE COUNCIL HAD NOTED OUR SUGGESTION REGARDING A COMMUNIQUE. HE SAID THE COMMUNITY INTENDS TO PREPARE A DRAFT COMMUNIQUE IN ADVANCE AND HOPES IT WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION ALONG WITH OTHER DRAFTS. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE COMMUNITY COULD NOT AGREE WITH THE SUGGESTED CONTENT OF THE COMMUNIQUE, PARTICULARLY WITH OUR IDEAS ABOUT A REFERENCE IN THE COMMUNIQUE TO FOLLOW-UP AND THE FUTURE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION.

7. REGARDING THE TIMETABLE, SCHEEL SAID THE COMMUNITY FULLY AGREES WITH BEGINNING ON MONDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 11. HOWEVER, IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CONFERENCE END THE EVENING OF
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 0750

8. SCHEEL ALSO EXPRESSED THE COMMUNITY'S DESIRE THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 10 RATHER THAN FEBRUARY 8. HE EXPLICITLY SAID HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED BY HIS COLLEAGUES TO MAKE THIS REQUEST NOT ONLY FOR THE COMMUNITY BUT ON BEHALF OF ALL INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATE DELEGATIONS. HE NOTED THAT FEBRUARY 10 IS A SUNDAY BUT SAID COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET THAT MORNING AND
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THEN TO BRIEF THEIR MINISTERS WHO WOULD BE ARRIVING THAT EVENING.

9. SCHEEL WAS FOLLOWED BY ORTOLI WHO MADE A VERY BRIEF PRESENTATION AND TOUCHED ON SOME OF THE SAME POINTS WHICH SCHEEL HAD DISCUSSED. HE EMPHASIZED AGAIN THE COMMUNITY'S WELL-KNOWN VIEWS ON THE NECESSITY OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATION WITH THE PRODUCERS AND ON THE IMPORTANCE OF TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF THE LDCS. HE NOTED THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE TOO BRIEF TO EXPECT CONCRETE SOLUTIONS TO MOST ENERGY PROBLEMS. THE COMMUNITY HAS A NUMBER OF IDEAS ON THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED WHICH CAN BE CONSIDERED AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING. ORTOLI REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING THE CONSUMER LDCS AND THE PRODUCERS IN MIND DURING THE DISCUSSIONS. HE SAID WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER GIVING A NEW IMPETUS TO EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE PREPARED USEFUL WORK ON ENERGY PROBLEMS. HE ADDED WE SHOULD CONSIDER WHICH ONES WE CAN USE AND HOW. HE POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCUSSING RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY. ORTOLI CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE COMMUNITY WELCOMES THE US INITIATIVE IN ORGANIZING THE CONFERENCE AND HOPES TO PARTICIPATE IN A USEFUL FASHION.

10. AMBASSADOR GREENWALD RESPONDED BY EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE MEETING. HE SAID HE HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS BUT WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON A PERSONAL BASIS ON SOME POINTS WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED. HE SAID WE APPRECIATE THE DESIRE OF THE COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY

IN THE CONFERENCE; WE FEEL THAT COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT BOTH BECAUSE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF ENERGY PROBLEMS AND ALSO IN THE CONTEXT OF US/EC RELATIONS.

11. REGARDING THE COMMUNITY'S DESIRE FOR AVOIDING CONFRONTATION, THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS EXACTLY OUR VIEW AND SAID HE HOPED THAT IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE COMMUNITY THAT THE US IS IN NO WAY INTERESTED IN ANY SUCH CONFRONTATION. SCHEEL RESPONDED TO THIS POINT BY SAYING THAT THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY SUSPICION THAT SUCH WAS THE CASE.

12. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED TO SCHEEL'S COMMENT ABOUT WORKING
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PARTIES AND CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP BY SAYING THAT HE HOPED THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE FLEXIBLE IN DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES. WE HAD PUT FORWARD SOME VIEWS FOR DISCUSSION WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND HOPED THAT OTHERS WOULD BE EQUALLY FORTHCOMING IN MODIFYING THEIR POSITIONS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND THE CONFERENCE ITSELF.

13. SCHEEL RESPONDED TO THIS POINT BY SAYING THAT HE FELT THAT ORTOLI SHARED HIS VIEW THAT THEIR MANDATE WILL ALLOW THEM TO CONTRIBUTE FULLY. HE SAID THEIR MANDATE IS NOT A FIXED POSITION BUT A ROUGH OUTLINE AND THEY ARE FULLY PREPARED TO DISCUSS EVERY ITEM ON THE AGENDA. HE SAID THEY HAVE THE POSSIBILITY AND IT IS THEIR INTENTION TO COOPERATE AND TO ELABORATE PARTICULAR AGENDA POINTS WHICH MAY ARISE DURING THE CONFERENCE. THE COMMUNITY MEMBER STATES WILL CONSULT AMONG THEMSELVES AND HE EXPECTS THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO POINTS WHICH ARISE DURING THE CONFERENCE.

14. REGARDING THE TIMETABLE, AMBASSADOR GREENWALD SAID THAT WE HAD ALREADY BEEN INFORMED IN BONN OF THE COMMUNITY'S DESIRE THAT THE CONFERENCE CONCLUDE ON FEBRUARY 12 BUT THE REQUEST FOR A POSTPONEMENT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING WAS A NEW ELEMENT. SCHEEL SAID THAT IT CAME UP DURING THE COUNCIL MEETING. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED WHAT SPECIFIC REASON LAY BEHIND THE REQUEST. SCHEEL EXPLAINED THAT SOME MEMBER STATES WERE NOT ABLE TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE ON FEBRUARY 8, THAT IT WOULD BE MORE CONVENIENT ON FEBRUARY 10, AND THAT HAVING THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 10 WOULD ENABLE US TO COMBINE THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND THE BEGINNING STAGES OF THE CONFERENCE. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WASHINGTON WOULD WANT TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST BUT ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE FELT THAT IF WE WISHED TO MAKE THE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS IT IS IMPORTANT TO PREPARE FULLY--THE MORE TIME WE HAVE FOR PREPARATION THE BETTER OUR CHANCES WILL BE OF FINISHING FEBRUARY 12 AND OF BEING SUCCESSFUL. IF WE BEGIN OUR PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION

ON SUNDAY, THERE IS NO CHANCE OF RUNNING ON AN EXTRA DAY
AND LITTLE TIME LEFT FOR CONSULTATION AFTER A PRELIMINARY
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. SCHEEL RESPONDED THAT IF PRELIMINARY
TALKS ARE HELD ON FRIDAY IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO BENEFIT
FULLY FROM SUCH AN EARLY BEGINNING BECAUSE MINISTERS, TO
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WHOM THE PREPARATORY MEETING PARTICIPANTS WOULD REPORT, WILL
NOT IN ANY CASE ARRIVE UNTIL SUNDAY AND THE PRELIMINARY
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WILL THEREFORE NOT BE CONSIDERED AT THE
APPROPRIATE LEVEL UNTIL THEN. SCHEEL CONCLUDED BY REITERATING
THAT THIS POSTPONEMENT HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY SEVERAL MEMBER
STATES.

15. COMMENT: WHILE SCHEEL WAS MEETING WITH US, STATE SECRETARY
APEL HELD THE POST-COUNCIL MEETING PRESS CONFERENCE NORMALLY
HELD BY THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT. HE TOLD THE JOURNALISTS THAT
SCHEEL WAS MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO BRIEF HIM
ON THE COUNCIL RESULTS CONCERNING THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.
IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION APEL SAID THE US HAD PROPOSED THAT A
PREPARATORY MEETING BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 8. HOWEVER, THIS WAS
NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE COMMUNITY AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT SCHEEL
WAS PROPOSING TO AMBASSADOR GREENWALD THAT THE MEETING BE
HELD ON FEBRUARY 10.

16. APEL RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY TO A QUESTION WHETHER ALL
NINE EC MEMBERS WOULD ATTEND THE CONFERENCE BUT SAID IT WAS
NOT CERTAIN ALL NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD GO.

17. APEL SAID THAT THE FEBRUARY 14 POLITICAL COOPERATION
MEETING OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD CONSIDER A PROPOSAL
FOR A MEETING OF THE EC-9 WITH OIL PRODUCING STATES.

18. A COUNCIL SECRETARIAT SOURCE, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING
THE COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, TOLD US
THAT BRITISH MINISTER DAVIES OPPOSED THE IDEA OF WORKING GROUPS
AT THE CONFERENCE. END COMMENT. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, ENERGY, IMPORTS, EXPORTS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU00750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740253/aaaabxfz.tel
Line Count: 317
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: EC BRUSSELS 0749
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <31 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: COMMUNITY PREPARATIONS FOR WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE
TAGS: ENRG, US, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005